

## ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS OF FOREIGN STATES: TYPOLOGY AND CHARACTERISTICS

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The institute of elections plays an important role in the political life of democratic states. An election is a formal decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office.

There are many different types of electoral systems in use around the world, and even within individual countries, different electoral systems may be found in different regions and at different levels of government (e.g., for elections to school boards, city councils, state legislatures, governorships, etc.) [1]. All types of elections are characterized by the following general criteria:

1) territorial limits – (a) ***national elections*** that are held nationwide in order to choose the members of the national parliament or a candidate to presidency; (b) ***regional elections*** that are held in a certain administrative part of a state to vote for local authorities;

2) the number of seats to be taken or replaced – (a) ***uninominal elections*** when only one member is selected from each district and (b) ***polynomial elections*** when few members are selected from each district;

3) the mode of voting – (a) ***direct elections*** when people vote themselves and (b) ***indirect elections*** when voters delegate their votes to the elected representatives who are to express the will of the citizens and vote for the local council, parliament or one of its chamber.

Electoral system is a method of calculating the election results to guarantee proper distribution of seats among the candidates [2]. There are three types of electoral systems: majority, proportional, and mixed system.

**The majority system** is the oldest among electoral systems. Its name comes from the French “*majorite*” that means “*most*”. Majoritarian electoral system stipulates that the winner is the candidate who gets the majority of votes from the number of people who take part in the vote. The majority system is used in 83 countries, including the USA, France, UK, and Canada.

The main characteristics of majority systems are as follows [3]:

- it is based on the principle that an elected representative should be elected only if she or he has the support of more than half of the voters;
- it may require preferential voting or more than one round of voting if there are more than two candidates, or if there is no natural majority;
- candidates are elected with a majority (i.e. more than 50%) of votes cast;
- its main models include: *Alternative Vote* and *Two-Round Vote*.

**The proportional electoral system** is a procedure for determining the results of voting when the seats are allocated strictly in proportion to the number of votes cast. This system is widespread. For example, in Latin America elections are held

only on a proportional basis.

The main characteristics of proportional systems include:

- the counting and seat determination processes that are generally complex and not immediately transparent;
- the principle that candidates are elected based on the total percentage of votes cast for their party.

**The mixed electoral system** combines the elements of both majority and proportional systems. A classic example of a mixed electoral system is that of Germany, where one half of the Bundestag deputies is elected by party lists, and the other half is elected under plurality/majority system.

The main characteristics of mixed systems comprise the following ones:

- creating a professional parliament with the membership reflecting the balance of the political forces in the society;
- strengthening of the political parties due to the fact that the seats in the parliament are distributed on a proportional basis;
- maintaining the continuity of the old and new political systems, supporting political traditions, since the use of the majority electoral system keeps on the chances of creating a stable one-party government;

In conclusion it is necessary to emphasize that there are no good or bad electoral systems. Each system has both advantages and disadvantages over the other types. Further research of electoral systems is important for defining the main tendencies in the development of the institute of elections and working out the most effective forms of running elections.

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## **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

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Public-private partnership in Ukraine is a form of collaboration between the state of Ukraine, territorial communities in the person of relevant state authorities and local government bodies (public partners) and legal persons other than public and communal enterprises or physical persons - entrepreneurs (private partners) implemented on the basis of the agreement. The cooperation is provided in accordance with the procedures established by the Law “On Public-Private Partnership” and other legal acts of Ukraine.

A private partner in the agreement concluded under the public-private partnership may be presented by several persons, who may act as private partners in